

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Various claims are being amended as shown above. The claim amendments clarify the claim language and are not intended to limit the scope of the claims, unless the claim language is expressly quoted in the following remarks to distinguish over the cited art in the office action in the parent application.

Brewer (USP 3,788,071) discloses an all-metal check valve 26, with a single check valve member 74 being urged in an open position (Figure 4) by injected air flow from air pump 22, with the flexing of arms 70,72. When the air pump 22 is not operating, the arms 70, 72 provides closing bias to securely seat the single check valve member 74 against the rib 52 in a closed position (Figure 2) in order to prevent reverse flow. Brewer does not in any way disclose or suggest a check valve including "a cut winding from the outer region towards the central region".

Choksi (USP 5,727,594) discloses a valve member 54, where the movement of the disc portion 60 away from the shoulder 24 (when fluid impinges the inner surface 62 of the disc portion 60) occurs solely as a result of the flexing of the connecting arms 66 to allow the valve member to be moved from the closed position to the open position, by increasing the openings 68 (column 5, lines 51-67). Choksi does not in any way disclose or suggest a check valve including "a cut winding from the outer region towards the central region".

Pettit (USP 5,890,959) discloses a flexible layer 150 of sheet of material with cross-cuts, where the petaled

opening of the sheet of material create an air inlet (see Figure 6). Pettit does not in any way disclose or suggest a check valve including "a cut winding from the outer region towards the central region".

Baddour (USP 6,031,717) discloses a louver member 12 with flaps 14 that flexes in the direction D1 in response to air flow AF and that returns to a rest state by moving in the opposite direction D1 when there is no air flow AF. Baddour does not in any way disclose or suggest a check valve including "a cut winding from the outer region towards the central region".

No new matter is being added by virtue of the amendment to the claims.

Claims 1-14 and 19-33 remain in this application. Claims 15-18 are being cancelled.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (805) 681-5078.

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Respectfully submitted,
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